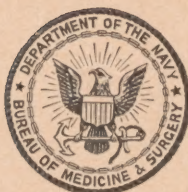


# THE NAVY NURSE CORPS



BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY  
NAVY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON, D. C.



UNITED STATES  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE  
WASHINGTON : 1943

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Hospital Ship in North Atlantic Ocean

Nurses in life jackets page 20

Sick Call Aboard Hospital Ship page 18

Courtesy Curtis Publishing Company

Patient transferred to hospital ship at sea page 20

Courtesy Collier's Magazine



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# THE NAVY NURSE CORPS

## BRIEF HISTORY



TEN YEARS before the birth of Florence Nightingale, Dr. Paul Barton, a young surgeon in the Navy, who had but recently left the Pennsylvania Hospital, made a report to Congress, at the request of the Secretary of the Navy. In his report he recommended a provision for women in the Navy which in part is as follows:

The nurses, whose number should be proportionate to the extent of the hospital and number of patients, should be women of humane disposition and tender manners, active and healthy. They should be neat and cleanly in their persons and without vices of any description.

One hundred years after this recommendation, the Navy Nurse Corps was established by law May 13, 1908.

The first Navy nurses were assigned to the Naval Hospital, Washington, D. C. Their number consisted of a superintendent, a chief nurse, and 19 nurses. No quarters were provided by the Navy for these nurses and it was necessary for them to rent a house and establish their own mess.

Early in 1909 nurses were sent to the naval hospitals in Annapolis and New York. In a short time they were ordered to Mare Island, Calif., and rapidly to all the naval hospitals. In 1910 they were sent to the Philippine Islands. Later to Guam, Honolulu, Yokohama, Samoa, and on the east coast to the Virgin Islands, Haiti, and Guantanamo Bay.

In the first World War they were assigned to hospitals in Ireland, Scotland, and the coast of France. For outstanding serv-





*Applicant for appointment in the Navy Nurse Corps.*



*Physical examination of applicant.*



ice four Navy nurses were awarded the Navy Cross, three of which awards were made posthumously.

In this war their designations of duty are many and varied both within and without the continental limits of the United States. They follow the fleet in hospital ships and truly see the world through and beyond the porthole. They are assigned to transports for the evacuation of casualties.

There is opportunity for exercise of all the nursing arts and skills in the large naval hospitals: Instructors, anesthetists, ward administrators, physical therapists, operating room supervisors, pediatrics supervisors, obstetrical supervisors, out-patients and clinic work, industrial work and many other arts of the nursing profession.

The Navy Nurse Corps is increasing to meet the needs of naval expansion. The new naval hospitals will be rapidly staffed and must be prepared for any emergency.

Navy nurses in Pearl Harbor, Kaneohe Bay, on the U. S. S. *Solace*, in the Philippines, and in Guam felt the first impact of the war. Five were made prisoners of war when Guam was captured but have since been repatriated. Eleven Navy nurses are somewhere in the Philippines. One Navy nurse, who was part of a Navy operating unit with the Army on Bataan, escaped in a submarine to Australia and eventually came to the United States. This nurse was the first person to receive the new award of the Legion of Merit, an honor legislated by Congress for outstanding devotion to duty.

The Navy Nurse Corps wants nurse appointees who are capable of efficient performance of duty in any situation, regardless of the difficulties with which they might be confronted.





*Applicant having met all requirements is taking oath of office.*



*On duty.*



## REQUIREMENTS, NAVY NURSE CORPS

1. Minimum preliminary education: High-school graduate.
2. Registered nurse; graduate from a school of nursing approved by the Surgeon General.
3. Age 22 to 28.
4. Citizen of the United States or naturalization of 10 years.
5. Single, widowed, or legally separated.
6. Physically qualified.
7. Satisfactory credentials from training schools and other sources.



*Navy blue uniform, Navy Nurse Corps.*

## REQUIREMENTS, NAVAL RESERVE NURSE CORPS

1. Minimum preliminary education: High-school graduate.
2. Registered nurse; graduate from a school of nursing approved by the Surgeon General.
3. Age 21 to 40.
4. Citizen of the United States or naturalization of 10 years.
5. Single, widowed, or legally separated.
6. Physically qualified.
7. Satisfactory credentials from training schools and other sources, unless member of Red Cross Nursing Service. Red Cross Nursing Service membership is acceptable in lieu of credentials.



*White uniform, Navy Nurse Corps.*





## PHYSICAL QUALIFICATIONS

### *Common Causes for Rejection*

The following are some of the most common causes for rejection;

Defective vision below 12/20 in each eye unaided by glasses, or any disease of the eye.

Defective hearing, acute or chronic mastoiditis, perforation of ear drum, discharging ear.

Deformity of disabling character, constitutional disease, goiter or other glandular conditions.

Acute or chronic skin disease or disfiguring marks or scars.

Enlarged or chronically diseased tonsils or disease of the paranasal sinuses.

Loss of teeth, teeth generally unsound, nonvital teeth, pyorrhea, etc.

There must be not less than 20 natural vital, serviceable teeth, (exclusive of replacements) and of these not less than 4 opposed incisors and 4 opposed molars of which 2 are directly opposed on either side of the dental arch. Edentulous spaces in the dental arch causing wide separation of the continuity of the masticating surfaces shall cause rejection. It is desirable however, that missing teeth be replaced by proper dentures where practicable in excess of 20 teeth required.

Any diseased condition of the lungs or chest.

Heart disease, circulatory disturbances, blood pressure above or below normal, varicosities or disease of the veins, rapid pulse.

Disease of the kidneys, albumin in the urine, etc.

Any disease or condition of the abdominal or pelvic viscera.

When the abdomen has been the seat of extensive surgical procedure, this shall cause rejection.

Abnormal mental or nervous disturbances; evidence of neurological disease.

A family or personal history of constitutional disease, severe illness, or severe accident is regarded unfavorably.



*Teaching at bedside—temperature, pulse, respiration.*



*Teaching at bedside—hypodermic injection.*



The following is a table of height and weight required:

Subject: Standard of weight for Members of the Navy Nurse Corps and Naval Reserve Nurse Corps:

Height (inches)	Ages			
	22-24	25-29	30-33	35-39 <sup>1</sup>
60	114	117	119	122
61	116	118	119	124
62	118	120	123	127
63	122	124	127	131
64	125	127	130	134
65	128	131	135	139
66	132	135	139	143
67	135	139	143	147
68	140	143	147	151
69	144	147	151	155
70	147	151	155	159

<sup>1</sup> A variation of 15 pounds may be made in certain cases.

Height to be taken without shoes and 5 pounds will be deducted for clothing.

The foregoing does not include all disqualifying defects, but is submitted only as a guide. Other disqualifying defects not herein enumerated may be a cause for rejection.

Waivers are sometimes granted for defects which are slightly below requirements.



*Teaching at bedside—blood pressure.*



*Physical therapy.*





## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. *What is the Navy Nurse Corps?*

The Navy Nurse Corps is composed of graduate registered nurses who have met the specific requirements of their appointments: Regular Navy Nurses; Reserve Nurses.

2. *What is the difference between the Regular Navy Nurse Corps and the Reserve Nurse Corps?*

The Regular Navy Nurse Corps is composed of a group of nurses who chose the Navy as a career and begin with a 3-year appointment. The Reserve Nurse Corps is composed of nurses who are available for duty with the Navy in time of war or national emergency. The Reserve Corps is composed largely of members of the Red Cross Nursing Service. They enjoy the pay allowances and privileges of the Regular Corps.

3. *Are Reserve nurses allowed to transfer to the Regular Corps?*

Yes, provided they meet the requirements.

4. *Will Reserve nurses be retained in the service at the close of the war?*

In all probability, yes, if they so desire, for as long as their services are required, and if they are particularly adapted to the needs of the Navy.

5. *What is the salary?*

\$150 per month with full maintenance for the first 3 years. 5 percent increase every 3 years.

6. *Are uniforms provided?*

Yes. There is a money allowance for complete initial outfits of the regulation ward and street uniforms.

7. *When do we receive our uniform allowances?*

Shortly after being assigned to active duty and being placed on the Navy pay roll. No nurse is allowed to purchase her Navy uniforms prior to her arrival at the naval station.

8. *How long does it take to obtain our uniforms?*

From 6 to 8 weeks.



*Teaching in classroom.*



*Surgical ward.*



9. *How much civilian clothing must I take with me on reporting for active duty?*

Enough for suitable attire until the regulation uniform is procured. Nurses are advised to make no new purchases of wearing apparel when they anticipate active duty in the near future.

10. *Does the Navy nurse wear her uniform at all times?*

Yes. She must comply with the regulation as prescribed for commissioned officers.

11. *Are nurses appointed in the Navy in the higher grades of rank?*

No. All nurses are assigned to original duty with the relative rank of ensign.

12. *What is relative rank?*

It is a rank comparable to that of commissioned officers in the same grade.

13. *What are the opportunities for promotion?*

Nurses who demonstrate unusual ability for the service, and adaptability, will be considered for promotion. They are selected on the recommendation of the commanding officer of the station to which they are assigned, together with their background of education and experience.

14. *Are Navy nurses assigned to foreign service?*

Navy nurses are assigned to duties beyond the continental limits of the United States, at advance bases, and aboard hospital ships and transports.

15. *May I request a specific designation of duty?*

Such requests are considered in accordance with the needs of the service.

16. *Are nurses assigned for a particular detail?*

Nurses are assigned to duty without limitation of service. Their particular training is noted, however; they will eventually be placed where their special training can be most effectively utilized.

17. *Are my travel expenses paid?*

Yes. You are reimbursed for travel after you arrive at your station of duty. Nurses must make their travel reservations and purchase their ticket as soon as they receive their orders.

18. Is there a special type of luggage required on reporting for active duty?

No.

19. How long do I remain on my first station of duty?

Maybe not longer than 6 months. Nurses are transferred to meet the needs of naval expansion.



*Hospital ship in Samoa.*



*Aboard hospital ship. Chief nurse between commanding officer (left) and senior medical officer.*



20. *May I resign?*

Resignation for good and sufficient reasons is accepted at the discretion of the Surgeon General. Do not join the Navy Nurse Corps if you contemplate marriage a few months after reporting for duty.

21. *Are Navy nurses' duties confined to the care of the men in the Navy and Marine Corps?*

No. She is responsible for the nursing care of the members of the Women's Reserve of the Navy and Marine Corps and the families of officers and men of the Navy and Marine Corps where facilities are available for the hospitalization of such dependents.

22. *What are the assignments to which a Navy nurse is most frequently ordered?*

The following are the most general assignments of the Navy nurse:

1. Ward supervision and administration.
2. Out-patient dispensary work.
3. Industrial clinics in connection with naval construction.
4. Naval air base dispensaries.
5. Transport service.
6. Hospital ships.
7. Operating room supervision.
8. Anesthetists.
9. Naval training station hospitals.
10. Foreign duty: North Atlantic, Atlantic, Pacific, South Pacific, northern bases, southern bases.
11. Hospital Corps Training Schools as instructors.
12. Pediatric clinics.
13. Physical therapy.
14. Marine Corps Air Base dispensaries.
15. Convalescent hospitals.
16. Dietetics.
17. Officer Procurement Offices.
18. Family hospitals.
19. First-aid stations.
20. Ammunition depots and dispensaries.



*Navy nurse uniform. Over-  
coat.*



*Navy nurse uniform. Ward  
uniform with cape.*





## INFORMATION

Nurses will be discharged by the Surgeon General for the following reasons:

1. Violation of ethics.
2. Not adaptable to Navy service.
3. Lack of physical endurance.
4. Excessive sick days for minor complaints.
5. For the good of the service.

### *Probationary period.*

Every Navy nurse and Naval Reserve nurse serves a 6-month probationary period for observation of her adaptability, endurance, and professional qualifications for the Navy service. At the end of 6 months she is recommended for acceptance or rejection by the commanding officer of the station to which she is assigned.

### *Physical examination.*

Nurses are responsible for expenses in complying with instructions for physical examinations before appointment, and they are not reimbursed if these instructions should involve travel. All nurses who have preliminary examinations at stations where facilities are not available for complete examinations are ordered to duty on Government expense but are required to have another examination before being placed on active duty. Nurses who wish to travel at their own expense to a naval activity for a final physical before being ordered to duty may request such authority.

### *Travel.*

All nurses are required to pay their own travel expenses in complying with orders to active duty. They will be reimbursed for travel performed in accordance with naval regulations.

### *Orders to duty.*

Orders to duty are recommended for all nurses as soon as their papers are completed. An exact date of assignment is forwarded, on an address form. If necessary a short period of deferment is granted to enable the nurse to terminate satisfactorily her current nursing obligations or for other reasons unforeseen at the time of her application.

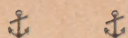


*Sick call aboard hospital ship.*



*Hospital ship ward.*





## APPLICATIONS

All applications for the Navy Nurse Corps and the Naval Reserve Nurse Corps are processed in the Office of the Surgeon General, United States Navy. Nurses desiring appointment should communicate with the Surgeon General, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., who will direct the Superintendent of the Navy Nurse Corps to forward the necessary forms.

Nurses who are enrolled in the American Red Cross Nursing Service and who desire appointment in the Navy Nurse Corps or Naval Reserve Nurse Corps, are directed to write to the Red Cross Nursing Service, stating this preference. Their names will then be submitted to the Superintendent of the Navy Nurse Corps who will communicate with them and forward application forms.

*Hospital Ship in North  
Atlantic Ocean.  
Nurses in life jackets.*



*Patient transferred to hospital ship at sea.*





*Navy nurses going on duty.*





Sightseeing in old Panama.

